

ENG-2813: ECO-HUMANITIES & LITERATURE: THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE ON NEW ORLEANS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: ENG-2813 : Eco-Humanities & Literature: The Devastating Impacts of a Changing Climate on New Orleans

Academic Term:

Spring 2026

Subject Code

ENG - English

Course Number:

2813

Title:

Eco-Humanities & Literature: The Devastating Impacts of a Changing Climate on New Orleans

Catalog Description:

This interdisciplinary Eco-Humanities course invites students to explore the vibrant cultural tapestry and ecological complexity of New Orleans through immersive travel, service learning, and critical reflection. Anchored in the heart of Louisiana, students will examine how environmental change, colonial legacies, racial histories, and grassroots resilience intersect in one of America's most storied cities. From the French Quarter's architectural elegance to the fragile ecosystems of the Bayou, students will engage with local communities, volunteer with rebuilding efforts, and participate in guided discussions that connect ecological awareness with humanistic inquiry.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1020 College Composition II or concurrent enrollment.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the historical layers of New Orleans, including its colonial past, African and Creole influences, and the legacy of slavery. Reflect on how architecture, music, and cuisine express cultural hybridity and resilience.
Identify key ecological features of the Bayou region and assess the environmental challenges facing coastal Louisiana.
Explore the relationship between climate change, urban infrastructure, and environmental justice in New Orleans.
Participate meaningfully in community-based service projects and reflect on the ethics of volunteerism and solidarity.
Evaluate the role of grassroots organizations in post-disaster recovery and sustainable urban development.
Integrate perspectives from environmental science, history, literature, and cultural studies to understand complex socio-ecological systems.
Articulate how human narratives and ecological realities shape one another in the context of place-based learning.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Critically interpret historical texts and cultural narratives to examine the socio-political evolution of New Orleans.
2. Compose analytical essays that explore how multimodal cultural expressions (e.g., architecture, music, food) reflect identity, hybridity, and resistance.
3. Synthesize scientific and literary sources to describe ecological systems and evaluate environmental threats in the Bayou region.
4. Develop arguments that connect climate narratives with urban planning and environmental justice through interdisciplinary research and writing.
5. Write reflective narratives that examine personal engagement, ethical considerations, and community impact in service-learning contexts.
6. Analyze texts to assess the strategies and impact of grassroots activism in urban resilience.
7. Create original compositions that illustrate the interplay between ecological context and human storytelling.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Attendance
2. Participation
3. Written work
4. Short presentations
5. Game creation
6. Final reflection

Course Content Outline:

- History and geography in relation to the environment
- Literary analysis of modern eco-literature
- Sustainable practices in New Orleans; their ongoing response to Hurricane Katrina
- Environmental policies and their cultural implications
- Climate change and its impact on New Orleans's landscapes and communities

Religious Accommodation

Before reviewing the course schedule, students should carefully review the following religious accommodation policy and other required instructional policies:

Religious Accommodation:

Students seeking an accommodation for absences permitted under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act must provide the instructor with written notice of the specific dates for which the student requires an accommodation and must do so not later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction. Please submit requests for accommodations at this link: <https://portal2.tri-c.edu/ReligiousAccommodation/ReligiousAccommodationForm>. Students with questions about their religious accommodations under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act may contact the College's Office of General Counsel and Legal Services by phone at 216.987.4856 or via email at legal@tri-c.edu.

Other Required Instructional Policies:

<https://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/curriculum/documents/syllabus-part-b.pdf>

Weekly Schedule

	Topics
Week 1	Introduction to the course Reading in The Accidental History Discussion re: reading
Week 2	Continued reading in The Accidental History Discussion re: reading
Week 3	Continued reading in The Accidental History Discussion re: reading
Week 4	Conclude reading in The Accidental History Game creation/play in class

Week 5	Reading in The Yellow House Discussion re: reading
Week 6	Continued reading in The Yellow House Discussion re: reading
Week 7	Continued reading in The Yellow House Discussion re: reading
Week 8	Conclude reading in The Yellow House Discussion re: reading
Week 9	Poster presentations Start reflective journal
Week 10	Read Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas Discussion re: reading Continued reflective journal
Week 11	Read Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas Discussion re: reading Continued reflective journal
Week 12	Read Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas Discussion re: reading Continued reflective journal
Week 13	Conclusion of Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas Discussion re: reading Continued reflective journal
Week 14	Discussion of final project - connecting reflection to experiential learning in NOLA
Week 15	Preparation for travel
Week 16	Final project - written reflection

The Course Schedule is subject to change due to pedagogical needs, instructor discretion, parts of term, and unexpected events.

Required/Recommended Readings

Required:

Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas: 978-0520274044

The Yellow House: A Memoir: 978-0802149039

The Accidental City: Improvising New Orleans: 978-0674725904

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